

HEALTH ENHANCEMENT AND SAFETY DIVISION

VISION STATEMENT:

To encourage the development of comprehensive school health education programs designed to prevent major health problems and health-risk behaviors among youth and which promote healthy lifestyles, families and communities.

State and national studies show that many Montana school-aged youth engage in behaviors which put them at risk for injuries, HIV/sexually transmitted diseases, unwanted pregnancies, drug and alcohol abuse, and suicide. Additionally, health risk behaviors -- such as tobacco use, improper diets, and physical inactivity -- which are developed during childhood place young people at risk for chronic disease later in life.

The Health Enhancement and Safety Division plays a key role in fostering and maintaining the physical, emotional, social and mental health of students and their environment while promoting healthy lifestyles as a personal and societal responsibility. Programs within the Division include: Guidance and Counseling, Child/Sexual Abuse, Health and Physical Education (Health Enhancement), HIV/STD Education, School Food Services, School Food Cooperative Bid, Food Distribution, Nutrition Education and Training, Traffic/Drivers Education, Motorcycle Safety, and Safe and Drug-Free Schools and Communities. The HIV/STD Education Program is funded through a cooperative agreement with the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, the Safe and Drug-Free Schools and Communities Program is funded through a grant from the U.S. Department of Education and, the School Food Service programs and Nutrition Education and Training are funded through a grant from the U.S. Department of Agriculture.

DIVISION GOALS:

The major goals of the Health Enhancement Division include:

- 1. Provide technical assistance in all program areas, including federal program guidelines and requirements, to schools and communities. This includes program planning, development, implementation, assessment, reporting and training.*

2. *Provide curricular and instructional materials to schools for use by teachers in the program areas identified. These materials include curricular scope and sequence, suggested guidelines, and potential activities. Materials include suggestions for dealing with atypical children as well as guidelines for program and student assessment.*

3. *Develop and maintain a cadre of regional Health Enhancement/HIV Trainers who are trained and equipped to provide health-related training to professional, administrative and support staff at the school site.*

4. *Monitor the availability of comprehensive school health education in Montana schools, and increase the number of schools that provide planned, sequential and age-appropriate comprehensive school health education at each grade level.*

5. *Monitor the health-related behavior of Montana youth in six categories: intentional and unintentional injury, tobacco use, drug and alcohol use, dietary imbalances, sexual behavior, and physical inactivity. This includes the general student population, American Indian youth, and incarcerated youth.*

6. *Maintain cooperative working relationships with:*

other state agencies, professional associations, state non-profit and for-profit organizations, and community-based organizations to effectively provide a continuum of services for youth which will promote positive health behaviors through the most cost-effective means possible;

Montana's school administrators through frequent communication and presentations at regional and state association meetings. This includes securing administrative support for program activities;

the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, the U.S. Department of Agriculture, and the U.S. Department of Education to maintain existing sources of funding, provide all necessary applications and reports, and provide information and input regarding future program goals and objectives; and

other programs within the Office of Public Instruction, including communication both up and down the chain of command.

7. *Conduct evaluation activities to provide information necessary to assess progress and to assist in improving division workplan activities.*

8. *Provide assistance to schools in promoting life/career planning with their students.*